



English Woodland Grant Scheme

Email Alert 28th October 2009

Woodland Creation Grant round 2009 – summary

This year's round closed on the 30th September and we received a healthy number of applications. A regional breakdown of applications is in the table overleaf, but the headlines are:

- 2451 Hectares applied for with a grant value (excluding Farm Woodland Payments) of £5.4 million
- Nearly all of the applications have been accepted and regional staff will be contacting successful applicants over the coming weeks to take forward their applications
- Less than 4 Hectares have been rejected on the basis of their low score and delivering low public benefit

Further to the May email alert and woodland creation grant literature, we are still waiting for EU approval to use the new Farm Woodland Payments (FWP) that are Single Payment Scheme (SPS) compatible. We cannot issue any contracts involving FWP until approval is received, because the implications for both applicants and the FC would be significant.

We are confident that the new compatible rates will be approved; whatever happens, the FWP rate will be SPS compatible (i.e. SPS will continue to be payable on land that had entitlements in 2008). Please be assured that we are equally as frustrated as applicants with the delay issuing contracts, and are working hard to ensure contracts can be issued in time for planting this season.

We're staying open for Woodland Creation Grant applications

Funds are still available for woodland creation grant applications with a claim year of 2010/2011 or later, so we are remaining open for applications on a first come first served basis until each regional budget is fully committed. Each region has set a threshold score that your application must achieve in order to be accepted immediately:

Region	Threshold Score
East of England	6
East Midlands	14
North East	10
North West	10

Region	Threshold Score
South East	13
South West	10
West Midlands	12
Yorkshire & the Humber	10

Summary of Woodland Creation Grant applications for 2009 – by region and claim year

Region	Claim year 2009 / 2010				Claim year 2010 / 2011				Claim year 2011 / 2012			
	Previously approved applications		New Applications		Previously approved applications		New Applications		Previously approved applications		New Applications	
	Ha	£000's	Ha	£000's	Ha	£000's	Ha	£000's	Ha	£000's	Ha	£000's
East England	129	263	301	472	15	29	42	113	0	0	78	252
East Midlands	294	536	220	694	8	15	135	477	7	14	0	0
North East	150	295	73	166	16	35	184	470	0	0	0	0
North West	180	164	92	170	7	7	301	705	0	0	0	0
South East	79	116	106	171	10	16	95	142	0	0	5	12
South West	180	311	234	490	11	14	123	268	0	0	3	6
West Midlands	229	396	217	378	10	15	107	219	0	0	2	6
Yorkshire & the Humber	130	226	66	101	25	41	67	99	0	0	0	0
Total	1,371	2,307	1,309	2,642	102	172	1,054	2,493	7	14	88	276

Notes:

- Each claim year can cover 2 planting seasons; for example, claim year 2010/2011 includes proposals to plant this coming Winter and Winter 2011